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The Masonic Craftsman

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of Freemasonry*

In This Issue: Life Memberships—Are They Desirable?

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NEW ENGLAND
Masonic Craftsman

ALFRED HAMPDEN MOORHOUSE, *Editor*

MEMBER MASONIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

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TIE What is this thing called Freemasonry? Why do men, apparently strangers a minute ago quickly find some common, congenial topic and warmly discuss it—in amicable understanding? Why does the smile which is denied to most come quickly to the surface when Mason meets Mason?

There's a reason, surely.

The reason is that these men, of their own free will and accord have voluntarily, without solicitation, allied themselves to a fraternity designed to promote universal brotherhood; and a significant factor in their association is that one may know another in the dark as well as at noonday, that they have a similarity of interest in a great crusade and a like desire to attain a worthy objective.

That is in short one phase of Freemasonry and the furtherance of its program an important part of the daily life of each man who has become a member of our gentle Craft.

MERIT Three years' service as Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts gives the incumbent invaluable experience. Men of high quality who have occupied that high position during the past 207 years have been conspicuous leaders in the Craft. Their records best testify to their merit.

Most Worshipful Joseph Earl Perry, recently retired, is no exception. In his last important address to Grand Lodge and the Craft, which we reprint on other pages of this journal he gives clearly, concisely and intelligently an appraisal of the present state of Freemasonry.

The address is well worth reading. In it is to be found the reasoned opinion of a competent leader. We commend his words to the careful consideration of CRAFTSMAN readers, and particularly that part pertaining to an effort to coordinate the efforts of all the grand jurisdictions and the forming of a "Masonic senate" or other similar medium for the settlement of questions affecting the Craft universal.

His views on this subject echo exactly those which have often been expressed in this column. They are more than the meaningless platitudes so often heard—the obituaries of little minds. They go beyond the letter to the spirit. In every law there is both the letter, which may kill, and the spirit, which gives life. Brother Perry obviously seeks that spirit, believing this is not a time or a case of the jot and tittle of the Masonic law but something far more important. In this his contemporaries will proclaim his merit.

Any resumé of the many problems inevitably arising from an association of a hundred thousand men in an

organization in a period of great sociological change deserves most careful thought. It is hoped that out of the admirable suggestions made by our late grand master some constructive action will ensue.

FRIENDS That a man is known by the company he keeps applies with particular emphasis to Masons. Some of the most delightful and permanent friendships have been brought about by the fraternal tie. No one revisiting his lodge after a long absence but will be touched at the cordiality with which old friends and fraters greet him. They will chide him, perchance, on his neglect of them but in the reminiscent vein which will inevitably ensue old incidents will be recalled, mutual interests touched upon and new pleasures be discovered. He will go away mentally and spiritually refreshed and determined not again to allow a lapse or break in the continuity of his Masonic tie.

Surely these ties that bind are worth cultivating. Granted that in a sadly confused world outside the lodge room distractions take up the time and crowd the thoughts, is it not greatly worth while to allow in the daily agenda some space for a rejuvenation of old spirits, to recapture the friendly and brotherly sentiments which meant so much when we knelt at the sacred Altar of Freemasonry and pledged ourselves in our brothers' behalf.

He, too, made the same vows and given half a chance will meet you halfway. It is in these renewals, this rejuvenation that much of the happiness of life consists.

EPOCH In the midst of an epoch it is difficult to evaluate events. Their significance, however, may, on the basis of precedent, be measurably forecast.

In the matter of Freemasonry recent months have seen the suppression of its activities in all free countries which have come under the power of the dictator and, of course, in his own country as well.

It is therefor not difficult to prophesy what the result will be in any other land where the so-called new order may prevail.

With the Craft bulwark in Britain gone, what would our position be in America? Numerically we have for years dominated the Masonic scene, but it is only fair to say, not always in the value of our Work or relative service to the community. The first Masonic charter came to Massachusetts from England, and from her we have derived much of our inspiration. We hold the great mother lodge of all regularly-constituted Freemasonry in great affection. Now in an hour of dire peril the time has come to prepare for any possible eventuality. With strong hope and steadfast purpose the Craft, to survive, and justify itself, must prepare defenses so strong that it will be invulnerable.

This is a matter for the most serious consideration of all the elder statesmen, as well as the newer generation

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Alfred Hampden Moorhouse, Editor and Publisher.

of Masons. Deeds are of the essence of the day. While not given to revolutionary practises, the fraternity is now confronted with a revolution from sources without and the need to meet these conditions may involve what may be considered by some to be revolutionary methods. Assuredly no policy of complacent negation will get far. Certainly ramparts to protect a priceless heritage must be put in strongest condition to repel any and all attacks.

With the end of the present epoch the strength of Freemasonry will depend in large measure upon the measures taken now by those to whose care the Craft is committed. That, brethren, means you and me. Its name and fame are largely in our hands.

FORD 33° If Henry Ford needed any assurance of the esteem in which he is held by his Masonic brethren, he had it abundantly at his elevation to the 33d and last degree of the Scottish Rite N.M.J. in Detroit this month.

Probably no single individual in contemporary American life has so profoundly affected it as has Henry Ford. However his critics may rave he has unquestionably broadened the horizon and brought happiness to millions. His thinking has been far in advance of others in most respects. His humanitarian impulses, not evidenced by spectacular methods nor widely publicized, are none the less effective in the munificent treatment of an army of workmen and the care and consideration given to their wellbeing. His virtues are homely virtues of the homespun variety. A self-made man, great wealth has not turned his head, nor affected his poise. His place is secure in history. A Mason for nearly half a century, the crowning act of his preferment to the 33d degree was a fitting climax to his Masonic career and evidence of the affection his fraters have for him.

TWILIGHT The United States of America stands at the present moment in a twilight between peace and war. Some authorities have, in fact, said we are already in. On the thesis that a state of war nowadays does not require a definite declaration—and the proof of this is amply provided by the status of a number of European countries who had unwanted and unwarranted war thrust upon them—this may be true. The Nazi powers, however, have been very careful not to announce such a status as applied to this country, presumably preferring to bide their own good time, or until they have dealt decisively with Britain—our last bulwark, before commencing actual hostilities against us, economic or otherwise.

That actual war will ensue from the present situation seems inevitable, for the present situation cannot indefinitely continue.

We are committed to the limit in aid to Britain. Astronomical sums of money have been, or will be spent for defense. There are justifiable reasons for believing that we have committed acts provocative of war.

To the reasoning individual with ideas based upon the American concept of liberty as against a state-controlled regimentation of all economic and social resources, the anomalous position of remaining half in and half out, half slave and half free, cannot continue. Either the American ideal survives or it dies. If it dies then

all our boasted progress will be destroyed with it. Should Britain be defeated in the struggle she is making to preserve the charter of her liberty which has existed since Magna Charta was signed at Runymede and from which has sprung or been the inspiration for most of the world's democracies, it is but a matter of time before our own vaunted freedom is taken from us and power reverts to a congerie of robber barons possessed of a vastly greater and more scientific means to enforce their will; a system in which under the guise of the State individuals will be reduced to vassalage—become chattels. In short, all the struggles through which enlightened nations have passed to attain present liberty of conscience and freedom under the law will have been of no avail.

There can be no temporizing in the present struggle. It is being said daily in a hundred ways that this is a battle for freedom. Proof of this is plentiful in the prostrate smaller countries of Europe who sought by every honorable means to avoid strife.

What forthcoming months may produce only the Divine Architect now knows. In His inscrutable wisdom all things happens for good. It is not ours to gainsay. We know what has happened elsewhere where unscrupulous brute force prevailed. It could happen here. That the full strength of mighty America shall be cast into the scales even to the extent of war, seems inevitable.

Of one thing we may be certain: that as darkness succeeds twilight, so after the dark comes Light. In that light let us hope that the universal brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God will find its ultimate fulfillment.

1941? During the next twelve months the world will see unprecedented changes. This notwithstanding a year's events which have profoundly affected every living human.

The supreme test of Right against Wrong—typified by two fundamentally opposite philosophies are reaching a climax. On the issue hangs the welfare of the world and all its peoples.

How will events affect Freemasonry?

With the knowledge of what has transpired in free countries which have been put under the totalitarian yoke within the past year it is quite clear that as an organization it will cease to exist if those forces win. Should Democracy survive new adjustments will be necessary to meet entirely new conditions—and as a prerequisite to the new problems, thought must imperatively be given to their solution.

Heretofore the Craft has coasted along comfortably upon a more or less fixed program based upon precedent which has contemplated a reasonably secure status. Now with that status completely upset a challenge to its resourcefulness comes which, if the Craft is to survive, must be met.

Basically the principles animating Freemasonry are sound. They are fundamental—unchangeable. This is an uncontrovertible Truth. In the practise of its principles, however, and its ability to meet changed conditions lie the supreme issue.

In the maintenance of its philosophy and the furtherance of the good work which has characterized its past every Mason worthy the name has a part to play.

Indifference, procrastination, which is the thief of Time, have no place in present-day Masonic thought. Things worth having are worth fighting for. Hence it behooves each and every man who has participated in the solemn rites of initiation, and heard the beautiful sentiments of the Ritual impressively propounded to bestir himself and ask if HE is doing his share toward encompassing the plan of making the world happier through the divine principle of Universal brotherhood under the Fatherhood of God.

A simple plan, but infinitely difficult of attainment now, with the forces of materialism and a false philosophy based upon marked ideals mightily opposed to it. The cause is worth the effort. The Craft *must* make it.

"PRINCIPLES" In the Grand Masters' Conference of 1939 a set of principles was formulated. They were designed to set forth the status of Freemasonry in the United States of America and make clear what the fraternity's objectives were. The "Declaration of Principles" appeared prominently in this journal for a full twelve months and are doubtless familiar to thousands of individual Masons.

Of a total of forty-nine Grand Lodges twenty adopted the Declaration, twenty-eight (to not all of which has it been presented) have not adopted it and one will consider it in 1941.

We have here an evidence both of the democratic functioning of the Craft and as well the need for some closer cooperation or collaboration in an essential matter.

In a universal organization such as ours it would seem to be elementary that its fundamental principles be crystal clear to all. Yet we have the spectacle of many diversified opinions on a vital point.

There are always, in any society, meticulous individuals who will split hairs over non-essentials and yet it would seem that in a brotherhood universally dedicated to one object, the principles animating it can be agreed upon.

We should like to think that the Fraternity and the state are merely different aspects of one and the same body, and that the fraternity's voice spoke of the moral and spiritual problems of life, not of course unrelated to its economic and social problems, while the state dealt with life's social and economic problems, not without deep moral and spiritual beliefs. This of course may be an unrealized, perhaps unrealizable, ideal, but we shall certainly get nearer to an approximation of unity if we can keep before us the thought that Freemasonry is one entity rather than a variety of views on a fundamental factor.

In other words, where there is a diversity of opinion the first requisite to constructive and useful service to

the community is unanimity, reached by mutual and intelligent understanding and good will.

A means toward this end in the specific case in point would be a clearing house for Masonic opinion acting with authority either through a national grand lodge or some present existing agency to prevent confusion or conflict of opinion. A sovereign body speaking for the 49 jurisdictions rather than 49 speaking in different voices. Complete unanimity is desirable if the world outside is to be accurately informed of Freemasonry's principles and objectives.

WANTED In the question of what is most needed to revive Masonry and to make it more conscious of its power and potentiality for good the matter of the personnel of its officers arises automatically as important. In the abilities and responsibilities of these men lie, in large measure, the key to its conduct. Appointed or elected, they have assumed office with, presumably, full knowledge of the functions of the fraternity and aside from an ambition to achieve ritualistic perfection to serve otherwise diligently and devotedly.

Of necessity wide knowledge is needed to secure best results. Something beside mere routine is involved in their selection.

If the officers' view is a narrow one, encompassing only consideration of the immediate surroundings involved in the membership of the local lodge, there yet remains the wider field of national and universal Freemasonry, something which requires far greater knowledge and wider perspective.

For the purpose of promoting the Craft's best interests it is essential that the lodge officers, from master to junior steward, be readers of Masonic literature, be kept informed, assiduous in their search for Truth, imbued with a sincere desire to translate into constructive service lessons learned from authoritative and proven sources.

Too often men of minor executive calibre are elected to office, men of restricted vision who, quick to note the mote in their fellows' eye—fail to perceive the beam in their own. Small minds, concerned greatly with petty things to the exclusion of the higher ethics and practices which should govern. We know of some who are unable to grasp the essential and elemental nature of Freemasonry's universality, who cannot see beyond the range of their own limited horizon, who permit personal pique to replace broad tolerance, narrow inhibitions the wider view.

A school for such is needed, for only the wise are fit to lead, and the character of its leadership is a measure of the Craft's usefulness. Leaders of first quality are wanted today to meet tomorrow's problems. Where are they to be found?



A Monthly Symposium

Life Memberships—Are They Desirable?

ALFRED H. MOORHOUSE
BOSTON

The Editors;
JOSEPH E. MORCOMBE
SAN FRANCISCO

WILLIAM C. RAPP
CHICAGO

DESIRABLE WHEN SOUND

By ALFRED H. MOORHOUSE
Editor *Masonic Craftsman*, Boston

LIFE memberships have been the subject of much discussion in recent years, chiefly because of financial problems developing since the economic depression struck with its attendant troubles.



Formerly the comparatively few who at their initiation or soon thereafter felt it wise and who could afford to pay in full for all future official Masonic dues in one lump were not considered an important financial factor in the fraternity, the great mass annually—and more promptly than now—paying their yearly fees, comfortably carrying along overhead expenses.

During the lush period a few luxuries were likewise acquired, and these tended to become fixed habits. Now with a continuation of depressed economic conditions, the need has been urgent to tighten the economic belt—to forego luxury, and to economize all along the line.

In the matter of life memberships this writer has always held to the belief that they are desirable when and if based upon sound financial practise. For instance: if annual dues are ten dollars, a principal sum of sufficient amount to assure that return in annual interest should be the amount of the life membership fee.

There will, of course, be objection to this plan, and it is not as simple as it may seem, for permanent fixed interest is non-existent, securities having a habit of shrinking in value; the principal amount required might also be considered too large to encourage the investment.

What is the present situation? The question is broad and cannot be answered specifically, but the general complaint seems to be that too many members are exempt from annual dues because they had the foresight and financial ability to pay a lump sum to provide against the annual levy for dues. They cannot be blamed for this. Rather are those responsible who framed an improper plan of life membership in which sensible amortization was not provided.

If life memberships are put high enough only the most affluent applicants will be able to afford them. On the other hand the lodge may be reasonably sure that these sums, the principal of which should not be touched for lodge purposes in any event until the decease of individual members releases that obligation, will bring

a return commensurate with its needs and parallel annual dues.

The subject requires earnest consideration, and here again arises the need for a national medium to make possible a universal application of principle. Without infringing the sovereign status of the lodge it would undoubtedly be influenced by some such authoritative opinion.

Exemption of officers or others from payment of dues is not contemplated in this discussion, for it is believed that *all* members of a lodge without exception should pay annual dues necessary to secure sound financial functioning.

DESIRABLE—BUT DOUBTFUL

By JOS. E. MORCOMBE
Editor *Masonic World*, San Francisco, California

LIFE Memberships—Are They Desirable?" This our question for present consideration, has long been a subject for debate in Grand Lodges. There has not, as yet, been any decision of general acceptance, though many of the factors involved have been argued pro and con.



In any particular case it must be asked if the sum fixed to establish a life membership is sufficient, when wisely invested, to insure return equivalent to the annual dues. Any such consideration will, of course, hold in mind the fact that the original sum will in time revert to the Lodge treasury with

cessation of the membership.

Is it possible, considering the present financial conditions affecting the entire country, to so invest the permanent fund, that it will surely produce the returns required? Or will the trust be subject to fluctuations that may hazard its continued safety and possibly fail of intended purpose?

Should the constituent Lodge retain full control of the sums devoted to life memberships, or should they be turned over to Grand Lodge for investment, the income to be distributed annually to the Lodges, and the lump sum, in each case, be returned to the Lodge upon the expiration of the membership thus covered?

For one who has followed this matter of discussion through many years, the conviction is forced that until very lately there has been no more than a rudimentary sense of guardianship among the Lodges in dealing with life memberships. In many cases within our knowledge the sums so received were not even specially reserved.

but were turned into the treasury and used for current expenses. In every such instance the pinch has come sooner or later. The Lodge had failed in its obligations to maintain the interests of confiding brethren, and had subjected itself to a diminution of income that at times threatened its usefulness.

In other cases the fee for life membership was fixed in amount by overly optimistic officers. At the time it may have brought an income sufficient for the intended purpose. But the financial situation changed, and the returns diminished, sometimes to near the vanishing point. Again the fault was with the Lodge and to the injury of the brethren, who had sought to make their affiliation secure during the life period.

Of late there has been a drift of opinion toward Grand Lodge custody and control of all life membership funds within the jurisdiction. The strong argument is advanced that in the governing body there are men experienced in financial matters, who from superior knowledge are able to make investments more intelligently than the average Lodge treasurer of finance committee. The extent of these funds, drawn from many Lodges, could be more profitably and safely invested than could the comparative dribbles of the single Lodge. In this opinion we concur, as offering the best possible solution of a question that has long troubled the fraternity.

It is a homely old proverb that "all signs fail in wet weather." And it is likewise true that at present the wisest financiers are unable, if honest, to hazard any set opinion as to the future security of investment of any sort. Permanent Lodge funds, of any kind, must take their chances with all others that are based upon trust in the solvency of institutions and of permanence of democratic principles as embodied in national government.

CAN BE MADE DESIRABLE

By WM. C. RAPP

Editor *Masonic Chronicle*, Chicago

THE desirability of bestowing life memberships in Masonic lodges is a theme which has been discussed for many years, and the conclusions reached by the disputants have ranged all the way from those who maintain that life memberships should not be granted under any circumstances, to those who believe they can and should be awarded indiscriminately.



There is one point, however, upon which there is or should be general agreement—that the basis upon which life memberships are either sold or awarded must be economically sound and not endanger the future financial status

of the lodge.

Three considerations are usually dominant in the granting of life memberships—the payment of a specified sum of money, the completion of a certain number of years as dues-paying members, and as a reward for particularly valuable services to the lodge or the fraternity.

The success of a plan to sell life memberships depends

upon the adequacy of the amount demanded and the absolute safeguarding of the funds thus accumulated against loss, dissipation or defalcation. The payments deposited should be established as a trust fund in the strictest sense, and should be sufficiently large in each case to insure the lodge that the income derived from it will approximate the amount required for the payment of annual dues. In the event that the original deposit inures to the benefit of the lodge on the decease of the member, some allowance in the amount required may safely be made. Whether the deposit should be based on the age of the member or made a flat sum for all is a matter of detail.

In favor of purchased life memberships it is indisputable that they will reduce the normal loss of members through suspensions and other causes. They will lessen the labor and expense of collecting annual dues. It cannot be doubted that there are many brethren because of advanced age and loss of income find the payment of annual dues a hardship or actually beyond their ability, whereas it would have been easy for them to have insured themselves against this possibility by the purchase of life memberships at a time when their earning powers were greater, had they had the foresight and had been permitted to do so. It is true that in worthy cases the lodge will remit dues, but who would not rather feel that he has fully discharged his obligations than to accept remission?

We believe that life memberships should be supervised and controlled by the parent body. While Grand Lodges are not infallible, their control of life membership funds will add protection to the brethren who purchase them.

Probably the most senseless of life membership plans is that of automatically making all members of a lodge a life member at the expiration of a certain number of years—in some cases in as short a period as fifteen years. As lodge dues invariably are only sufficient to take care of the actual expenses incurred, it does not take long before such a plan places a parasitic burden upon a lodge which it is unable to carry and powerless to remove. If the period of dues paying were lengthened to fifty years, or even a little less, there would be little danger that the number would prove an injury to a lodge, as the proportion of men who reach the advanced age required is very small. It might even prove to be an advantage, as offering a sort of automatic recognition of continued faithful service to the lodge. It would also be an inducement to a man who experiences difficulty in paying dues to realize that within a specified number of years he will reach the period of exemption.

The conferring of life memberships for "meritorious" service, in most cases that of having served as Master of the lodge, is difficult to defend.

Is there a "mental hazard" involved in the subject? Does life membership, however acquired, lessen the value a man places on his membership and cause him to become indifferent to the welfare of the institution? How many life members ever attend lodge meetings or take part in the active work of the order? Not many, it is true, but the same indictment will lie against other members who have grown old in the service and upon whom rest the infirmities of declining years of life.

We agree with the assertion of a Grand Master who

declared that "life memberships in lodges has been fraught with evil rather than with benefit to the fraternity," but believe this was due to the fact that sentiment rather than business judgment prevailed in the

past. We do not believe the declaration that "when you make a life member you lose a member." Under strict regulation and proper safeguards life memberships may be an asset to the fraternity.

SWITCH POINTS

A Valedictory Talk by M.W. JOSEPH EARL PERRY

In this final address to the Grand Lodge many thoughts crowd for expression. Some must be omitted. Others, included for the sake of the record, will not be read but will as usual be available in print at the close of the meeting. When we note and regret the meagerness of the early records of the Craft we are reminded that the historians of the future may likewise wish to know how Masons thought and acted in the world's greatest crisis and what they sought to contribute toward the winning of the Battle of Civilization. From the addresses of the Grand Masters of our various Grand Lodges a composite current history might well be evolved.

Before considering some aspects of our local situation I should like to make a few rather general observations. One of the interesting and often grotesque phases of photography is the taking of so-called odd-angle pictures to show unfamiliar aspects of familiar objects. Some of these are so unusual that one cannot even determine what object has been photographed, yet the odd-angle picture is, from its peculiar point of view, just as accurate as is the familiar view which it does not at all resemble. It is always important, therefore, to know from what angle a subject is viewed. Such views as I may express are the composite of impressions received successively as a line officer in a Lodge, a District Deputy, Deputy Grand Master, Chairman of the Advisory Finance Committee, Judge Advocate, and, in point of length of service, very nearly the senior presiding Grand Master in the entire world. The Grand Master of Massachusetts, during his third year of office, is normally the senior in North America because none of the other Grand Lodges retain their Grand Masters for more than two years. The suppression of Masonry in certain countries and changes in personnel in other life-tenure jurisdictions have left me as almost the world's veteran Grand Master.

Rightly or wrongly, I have believed it to be of paramount importance that Masonry be united and strengthened in this world crisis and that narrow provincialism and jurisdictional rivalries be outgrown. Interjurisdictional visits seem to afford one of the most valuable means of attaining these objectives. To that end I have visited nearly every Grand Lodge jurisdiction in eastern United States and as far west and south as North Dakota, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Florida. Beyond that, my visits have included the Canal Zone, Venezuela, Colombia, all the jurisdictions in eastern Canada, and England, Scotland and Ireland. Unusual problems connected with our Lodges in China and Chile have required more than ordinary contact with those countries and my three years of attendance at the annual Conferences of Grand

Masters and Grand Secretaries in Washington and three years of service as Chairman of the Grand Masters Committee on Social Security have kept me in frequent contact with every Jurisdiction in the United States. Thus my first-hand contacts and observations embrace nearly all the contemporary Masonic world. It is, therefore, from no purely local point of view that I am trying to approach this farewell message.

Unity of Objective—Non-Unity of Action

Throughout the Masonic world there is a gratifying unity of purpose to hold fast to the spiritual values of our civilization, strengthen individual character, support duly constituted governmental authority, and ameliorate the lot of mankind. For an organization comprised only of frail humanity there is an amazing lack of personal rivalry and self-seeking. The proportion of public spirited leaders in every form of good citizenship who are Masons is gratifyingly larger than our numerical strength in the community, but to an almost unbelievable degree the Craft, as such, refrains from even the semblance of political activity. In an extremely rare case some unthinking member may try to connect politics and Masonry, but in each case the Craft has instantly and emphatically frowned on such action. Times without number Freemasonry has cemented friendships, averted or cured personal quarrels, and extended a helping hand in time of need. It has lived up to its professions to an extraordinary degree and much of the strength and fineness of our present day civilization is due to the prevalence of the Masonic philosophy of life.

On the other hand, each unit in Freemasonry is largely insulated from each other unit. It is not a case of disunity in the sense of disharmony, but rather a case of non-unity resulting from provincialism, narrowed scope of vision, and lack of interjurisdictional contacts. There is perhaps no specific program that should call for united action, but untold strength and encouragement would flow from a practical realization of the size and spread of the band of fellowship of which each separate member and each organized unit is a part. At a time when the forces of righteousness and brotherhood face their greatest test, when as never before we need the momentum and stimulus of conscious mass and unity, we are still thinking in terms of separate, lonely little groups.

Throughout the Masonic world there seems to be an appalling lack of realization of the rising forces that for one reason or another would like to eradicate Masonry in the remaining countries where it still exists. In Jurisdiction after Jurisdiction, for instance, the adoption of the Declaration of Principles has been thought

unnecessary in spite of the fact that a century ago in this country the adoption of somewhat similar public statements was about all that saved such remnants of Masonry as survived the persecution of those days. This is cited merely to illustrate the necessity of clarifying our own Masonic thinking, of becoming aware of the realities of the world in which we live, and of preparing together and in advance for the testing that may lie just ahead.

Another form of non-unity is the diffusion of Masonic energy and interest between Symbolic Freemasonry and the collateral bodies. It should immediately be stated that these collateral bodies also exert a unifying influence, for they both unify and divide, strengthen and weaken, the body of Freemasonry. In the geographically smaller British Isles they occupy a comparatively subordinate position with the result that Symbolic Masonry is much stronger, both relatively and absolutely, than in this country. On the other hand, a single Grand Lodge covers each of those countries, whereas here we have forty-nine separate, sovereign Grand Lodges with no national organization. Most of our collateral bodies do have nation-wide organizations which tend to promote national unity in all branches of the Craft.

One seemingly inevitable outcome of the present world war must be greater international cohesion. If the totalitarian powers should succeed in imposing their proposed program on the world, it would mean the consolidation of smaller national units into larger economic and political spheres. If the democracies win they may merge many of their common interests or they may even federate or amalgamate. In either case the ethnic, economic, and political forces seem to have a distinctly centripetal trend. Freemasonry, and indeed all well meaning influences and organizations, could profitably think along similar lines. Indeed, that may come to be their only chance of effective survival.

Masonic Unification

The foregoing comments, like those in my address of June, 1938, might imply a suggestion of advocacy of a national Grand Lodge. That conclusion would be incorrect. I have never advocated such an organization and do not now. Conditions might arise under which such an organization would be desirable, but I know of no Grand Lodge or individual Masonic leader who would advocate such action at the present time.

Great benefits have resulted from the closer bonds of fellowship which have resulted from the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association and the annual Conferences of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries, which are nationwide in scope. Their weakness, however, lies in the comparatively narrow objectives of the former and the lack of continuity due to the constantly changing personnel of the latter. With the approach of the completion of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial building at Alexandria the objectives and the activities of the Association ought to be enlarged. The Masonic Service Association is doing an exceptionally fine bit of work but it does not yet have the support of all the Grand Lodges. It is to be hoped that it, too, may become a completely national Masonic enterprise. These present organizations are excellent but they have not quite met the full need of

the Fraternity. Is not something further to be desired which shall strengthen the fraternal ties in our disunited Freemasonry while still leaving each Jurisdiction its independent sovereignty?

Masonic Senate of North America

I invite the serious consideration of the Craft to the advisability of organizing a Masonic Senate of North America to consist of the strongest available representatives from each Grand Lodge in North America to meet at least annually, and more frequently by committees, to consider all matters affecting Freemasonry, but without power to take any action binding upon any Masonic body. If each Grand Lodge were to select as its Senators, say, two of its wisest, strongest Masonic statesmen to serve for a reasonably long term, with or without the right to stand for reelection for successive terms, there would be a continuing body of men whose considered judgments could do much to mould and direct Masonic thought. This would supplement, but not supplant, the present conferences of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, and the Masonic Service Association.

Such a body could do much to win the battle for existence that Masonry may well be facing here as it has already had to do elsewhere. It might help to solve some of the problems arising out of the relationships between Symbolic Freemasonry and the collateral bodies. Perhaps only such an organization could solve some of the problems arising out of the Masonic publications, both official and commercial, so we might profit by their admitted benefits without sustaining their occasional detriments.

Such a body might eliminate some of the misunderstandings between Freemasonry and other agencies which likewise seek to benefit mankind. Perhaps, in spite of the bitter and unjust attacks on Masonry that are prompted, or at least tolerated, by some members of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy, such a Senate might make it clear that Masonry seeks no controversy with that or any other church, but that, on the contrary, we have a great many objectives in common with each other.

Many questions of interjurisdictional comity and interests and of general ideals and policies could profit from statesmanlike study of a body of men broad in outlook, wise in experience, lofty in vision, and sound in judgment, commanding respect but not exerting any official authority. Such a body would be a unifying force between geographical interests, between the fifty-eight Grand Lodges of North America, between the several branches of Freemasonry, and between Freemasonry and all other institutions of good will. It should do much to hold aloft the torch of Freemasonry and of civilization in their years of supreme testing.

If the immediate creation of such a Senate seems too costly or elaborate for a first step, a less pretentious experiment, to be expanded or abandoned in the light of subsequent experience, might be the creation of a Masonic Cabinet for North America, composed of a smaller number of members from regional districts, or even a series of Regional Cabinets. The more mechanical aspects of the matter,—size, basis of representation, tenure of office, and all similar matters, should be determined not by the proposer of the plan but by some genuinely representative body. The chief concern is

that by this, or some better means, there should be a workable instrumentality for mobilizing and unifying our Masonic contribution toward the welfare of mankind in these critical days.

Business Administration

While the fraternal side of Freemasonry is the more important, nevertheless the business side is also important. During the past three years an unusual amount of attention has been paid to the business side of Lodge and Grand Lodge administration and much progress has been made. Many other things have been desired but not yet accomplished. Although considerable improvement has been made in reallocating the administrative work of the Grand Lodge much is still to be desired for our office space is far from satisfactory, some of our employees customarily, and others frequently, have to take work home, and we are still weak in understudies for certain key positions. Because I believe these conditions are largely remediable, I renew my recommendation, heretofore made to the Board of directors, that the entire subject matter be carefully studied with a view to gradual improvement as opportunity offers.

Life Membership—Grand Lodge Dues

Because of a divergence of opinion in well informed quarters I have not officially advocated an amendment to our Grand Constitutions whereby it would be possible for a member of the Craft to prepay his Grand Lodge dues for the rest of his lifetime. Nevertheless I wish to record the fact that ever since the institution of Grand Lodge dues it has been my belief that some such provision would give the Grand Lodge the immediate and continuing use of additional funds and would somewhat reduce the annual volume of clerical work. Its chief benefit, however, would be to the individual members by eliminating the possibility of loss of membership through inadvertence, misunderstanding, or miscarriage of the mails, and by making it possible, in time of financial competence, to prevent the danger that subsequent reverses would compel the member to carry a burdensome obligation or face the embarrassment of asking relief from it.

Social Security Legislation

The opposition to the Social Security legislation which has appeared in the addresses of the past few years has not been based on opposition to the purpose of the legislation, or to the principle of a retirement system for that is thought to be highly desirable. However, we have believed, among other things, that, as enacted, the law did not apply to the Masonic Fraternity. If that were so, then we were paying illegal taxes and it might sometime be found that our supposed beneficiaries would for that very reason be deprived of their expected benefits. Indeed, officials have not hesitated to say unofficially that in many cases the unemployment benefits could not be obtained, although not on the ground of illegality. Legislation now pending would, if enacted, make the law clearly applicable to the Fraternity. If that becomes law, we shall as a matter of course comply—as in fact we have heretofore been doing under technical protest. If such new legislation should become effective, and if our proposed test litigation should prove that the law has not heretofore been applicable,

our test litigation might merely result in a cash recovery which would be more than offset by depriving our employees of the cumulative benefits heretofore accrued and by requiring them to start all over to accumulate their new benefits from the date of the new legislation. The commencement of the test case will therefore be held in abeyance until the prospects of new legislation can better be appraised, and will probably be dropped entirely if it later seems advisable.

Lodge Finances

Attention is again directed to the report of the Advisory Finance Committee presented at the September Communication. The standard books for financial records recommended by the Committee have been printed and may be purchased from the Grand Lodge at cost. While the use of these forms is optional, there should be no option about adopting the various safeguards urged by the Committee. Life memberships, expense schedules, delinquent dues, and other items should be restudied in the light of that helpful report.

Official Cipher

The experience of the past three months has shown the inadvisability of so strictly limiting the distribution of the Ciphers, so, unless and until some future ruling or legislation shall otherwise direct, the Ciphers may be obtained by any Lodge officer or instructor on application to the Grand Secretary's office for one dollar per copy. My personal view remains unchanged to the effect that eventually they should be available, without restriction, to any member of the Craft. For the sake of emphasis it is again stated that the Ciphers must not be consulted in any Lodge while in session, or at any Exemplification except by the express permission of the Grand Lecturer in charge.

Lodge Notices

It has been repeatedly suggested, orally and otherwise, that Lodge notices can be extremely important factors for the good of Freemasonry. Many are most readable and are truly valuable influences, but too many others are so poorly arranged as to be very confusing and so stereotyped as to command but little attention. As a vehicle for carrying to every member a word of cheer, a bit of Masonic information or philosophy, or readable information about Lodge activities, it is unsurpassed. A fine program worked out with or without the assistance of the Lodge Officers' Plan Book and attractively described in the Lodge notice makes an excellent foundation on which to build a successful Lodge.

Lodge Customs

Following the start made in the September address, attention is carried to the custom of The Harvard Lodge whereby the Master and Standing Committee make detailed annual reports which include a full review of the year's events and Lodge activities; a comparative table showing the financial and other statistical changes for the current and two preceding years; an analysis of the significance of those changes; and recommendations or other matters of interest. These are inexpensively duplicated for distribution to each member and cumulatively will make an extraordinarily interesting Lodge history. The same Lodge is considering the advisability of eventually adopting the plan of two year Master

but single year line officer tenure mentioned in my last address. If that should be adopted they are considering the desirability of having each Master keep a confidential, cumulative, individual record of the kind of service rendered by each line officer to be available to the nominating committee.

Another custom having great potential value has long existed in The Lodge of St. Andrew where a Master's book is kept to be open only to the inspection of the presiding Master and in that book each presiding Master enters such observations or suggestions as he thinks might be helpful to his successor.

United Grand Lodge of England

The record of the Quarterly Communication of the United Grand Lodge of England held September 4th in Freemasons' Hall in London is an intensely interesting glimpse of Masonry carrying on under stress of war. Since the meeting was held at Freemasons' Hall it is assumed that up to that date the building had not been bombed. A Brother who has seen it from the air says that it is a conspicuous target and doubtless an object of special hatred to the attackers.

In response to an appeal to their Officers and Members to send in their Masonic jewels to be melted up and turned over for the national defense, gold and other metal salvage had already exceeded fifty thousand dollars in value. Gifts from other Grand Lodges and Masonic bodies were gratefully acknowledged. The Board of General Purposes announced that they had no plans for sending children overseas "other than in conjunction with the government schemes." Particular stress was laid by the Pro Grand Master on the importance of holding meetings of the private Lodges according to their by-laws, in spite of the operations of the enemy, as their spiritual and material value is greatly intensified by the emergency.

Beyond Our Borders

All Masonic Jurisdictions, but particularly our own, should be alert to cultivate wide and friendly relations with other Masonic Jurisdictions. We have unusually cordial relations with all the Grand Lodges of eastern United States and Canada. It would be beneficial to us and to Freemasonry in general if we were to go even further afield in the United States and in Canada.

The Masons of the United States could contribute greatly to the wider usefulness of the Craft and to hemispheric solidarity and good will if they should establish and maintain cordial and continuing contacts with our Brethren in Central and South America.

The Brethren of Canada are magnificent in their war-time loyalty to the finest in Freemasonry and they deeply appreciate, and are sustained by, the friendship of their Brethren in the United States.

Canal Zone, Chile and China

Freemasonry in the Canal Zone has taken on added life and vital significance with the influx of additional Brethren engaged in defense preparations and in military and naval service.

The new District Deputy Grand Master in Chile is taking hold with zeal and skill.

No one can clearly foresee what the future holds in store for our Freemasonry in China, since its welfare

is so closely bound up with the presence and welfare of the Occidentals who live in the Orient, and they in turn are so closely affected by world forces not yet predictable. If our Lodges should temporarily be forced to suspend, it is to be hoped that their Charters and continuous existence may be preserved even if they should be compelled to remain for a while in abeyance.

No Grand Lodge in the United States has a greater responsibility or a greater opportunity for vital service to mankind than have we with our spearhead contacts in Central and South America and in the Orient. Regardless of expense in effort or resources, we should do all in our power to strengthen Masonry and the forces of righteousness in these three great areas which will mean so much to the future welfare of mankind.

Declaration of Principles

Thus far a score of American Jurisdictions have adopted the Declaration of Principles, and all or nearly all of the Grand Lodges in the British Empire have adopted the British equivalent of our American form. With all the confusion that is clouding the thinking of the world, with all the subversive influences undermining the spiritual values, with all the venom directed at Freemasonry throughout the world, including the United States, it would seem desirable for all Jurisdictions to go on record in this or some similar form as an aid in clarifying Masonic thinking, championing spiritual values as exemplified in Freemasonry, and refuting the calumnies that overtly and covertly are directed against us.

Masonic Publications

At the time of his death our late Worshipful Brother, Lieutenant Colonel J. Hugo Tatsch, and Major Charles S. Coulter had long been engaged in the preparation of material for a history of Freemasonry in the World War. Since the death of Col. Tatsch Brother Coulter has continued the work alone and has completed the portions of the book relating to Military Lodges and Masonic attempts to do welfare work for the soldiers, and this material is in the hands of the Grand Secretary. Much of the work relating to Military Masonic Clubs has been done but its completion has been temporarily suspended since Major Coulter was recalled into active military service.

Jurisprudence

Right Worshipful Samuel H. Lewis and Worshipful Whitfield W. Johnson have been preparing and now have substantially ready for printing a course on Masonic Jurisprudence to be available for the Officers' Classes in the Lodge of Instruction. There has been considerable demand for this material. It is hoped that the plans for a similar course on Masonic Etiquette, Lodge Administration, and allied topics may likewise be carried to completion so as to be available for these classes.

Masonic War Morale Activities

Following the plans originated by Worshipful J. Hugo Tatsch, the Masonic Service Association has formulated detailed plans for War Morale Work for the united efforts of all the Masons of the United States. For the past six months Major Charles S. Coulter, a member of our Major General Henry Knox Lodge, has

been devoting nearly his entire time to this work with the Association and with the War and Navy Departments. Whether or not such a united program is ever put into operation, one immediate result has been the compilation, by the Association, of a comprehensive Digest of material which will be invaluable as a foundation and guide for such future Masonic Morale Work as may be undertaken. Another result is the impending opening of one such Masonic Service Center at Columbia, South Carolina, in conjunction with Fort Jackson, and concrete prospects for the early opening of other similar centers in other parts of this country.

Balloting

One of the safeguards of Freemasonry is that no one can join except by unanimous, secret ballot. Nothing should be allowed to weaken that almost unique safeguard and no member should be intimidated in the exercise of the balloting privilege. If the standards for admission should be too far relaxed membership in the Fraternity would come to mean but little. But, on the other hand, if they are too rigid no one could ever be admitted and the Craft, and all its possibilities for good would soon die out. The same strangulation would result if even a single member in each Lodge should misuse his power to keep out all candidates. Balloting is a serious responsibility. Let us give some thought to its proper exercise.

In the first place, let us remember that we are living in a world peopled exclusively by imperfect people. None is perfect. Moreover, the Fraternity seeks not to condemn, but to help, humanity. Whatever helps toward that objective is good Masonry. The underlying test in balloting is to determine whether it would be better for Masonry if the Lodge were to accept or reject the particular applicant.

An applicant must be of good report and well recommended. The welfare and effectiveness of the Lodge are in no small degree interwoven with its standing in the community. No organization that stands for high principles can expect to be at all times popular with all people. But being popular is far different from being worthy of respect. It would be a needless handicap to accept any one whose moral standing in the community is so low as to put the Craft in the position of professing high standards but admitting members whose lives are perpetual symbols of the opposite. Nor is this merely a matter of notoriety, for a man whose iniquity is so cleverly concealed that he is still a popular idol should likewise be rejected. The test is character rather than popularity.

But how about the man who is really all right but is unjustly condemned by the public, or the man who has sincerely reformed and needs help and encouragement in his effort to live a wholesome life? The ultimate welfare of the Lodge must still be the decisive test. No man has an absolute, inherent right to belong and the Fraternity is not a reform school or a rescue mission. It is under no obligation to accept too great a handicap. On the other hand, Freemasonry has no more fundamental objective than the building of character and countless men have been rescued by it and helped to reform themselves. Moreover, it would be better for a Lodge to sacrifice its very existence through fidelity to principle than to survive by surrendering principle.

That very thing has happened in every country where Masonry has been suppressed and it might well be the duty of a Lodge to accept a proper candidate even in defiance of popular or official wrath or condemnation.

How about the applicant who has made bad mistakes in the past but has since lived an exemplary life? Is there no statute of limitations, no sufficient period of penance? For what they may be worth, my own views are strongly that if a man has truly repented and reformed, and if sufficient time has elapsed to give reasonable assurance that there will be no recurrence, the past should be forgotten. No mistake should be considered irrevocable or irretrievable. "The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ, moves on." One might surrender to the black despair of the next lines, "Nor all your Piety nor Wit shall lure it back to cancel half a line nor all your tears wash out a word of it;" but more wisely one should take courage from the fact that the moving finger does move on. It does not let a single word or a single chapter end the story. It moves on and on and on to new pages and new chapters and there are no more glorious annals than those of the indomitable souls who admitting their mistakes yet build them into foundations for victory, who deny the right of the past to foreclose the present and the future. Alkali neutralizes acid; force stalemates force; love dissolves hate; courage and resolution can cancel out every defeat; the present can blot out the past. Rejection of an applicant is rarely justified solely on the ground of mistakes in the remote past. The more recent past, the present, and the prospects for the future are safer guides.

There is another class of problem cases composed, for instance, of men of good moral character, but who are nevertheless uncooperative, or so colorless as to promise to become little but additional deadwood, or so aggressive as to be prospective threats of disharmony, or so improvident as to be probable charity charges. There would seem to be no good reason for accepting such candidates or any other type whose admission would be harmful to the Lodge. The pre-application committee should forestall their applications, not only as a protection to the Lodge, but also as a kindness to the individual applicant.

Giving the interest of the Lodge paramount consideration, but seeking to injure no man; searching for quality rather than numbers, yet having tolerant regard for the frailties to which we are all subject; testing no man by his worldly wealth or outward appearance but only by his real character, let us approach the ballot with wisdom, with kindness and with courage.

Factional Balloting

But there are instances where men do not approach the ballot box with such motives. Some let personal spite or business or political or other differences outweigh the welfare of the Craft and men are sometimes rejected who should be accepted. No words can adequately describe the men who seek by such despicable means to gain revenge or inflict suffering. Such factional balloting is a serious offense. Sometimes—though with great rarity—some internal Lodge feud results in such balloting and candidates are rejected without regard to their qualifications or acceptability. Good men dare not apply and the Lodge slowly suffocates.

After careful investigation I have become satisfied

and have officially found as a fact that in one of our Lodges such a condition has existed for more than two years. If allowed to continue it would result in the death of the Lodge and the end of its opportunity for service. There should be some way to protect the Lodge in such a case. No precedent having been found I have adopted a course of action which is hereby reported to this Grand Lodge in order that if the Grand Lodge should deem such a course unwise it may legislate on the matter so as to govern similar cases if any should arise in the future. If no legislation is passed my action will serve as a precedent only in any case where the Grand Master may, after investigation, be convinced of the existence of parallel facts.

Since the facts and the remedy are set forth therein, my decree, omitting the name of the Lodge, is set forth in full as follows:

"To the Worshiuful Master, Wardens and Members of Lodge;

"Within the past year there have been certain rejections of applicants balloted upon in your Lodge. After careful investigation I find that in the balloting upon said applicants certain black cubes have been cast factiously and without reference to the qualifications, character, or desirability of the respective rejected applicants.

"I therefore declare such rejections and the balloting upon said rejected applicants to be illegal and void. Said applicants therefore stand as though they had been favorably reported upon but not yet balloted upon.

"You, as the Presiding Worshipful Master of Lodge, are therefore directed to place the names of said applicants on the notice for the next regular meeting of your Lodge, at which time the Lodge will ballot upon each of them. Inasmuch as some time has elapsed since said rejections, you will have the several applicants investigated from the date of their said rejections up to the present time. Such investigations may be made by the original committees or by other committees, as you may direct, but the original reports or the substance thereof shall be a part of the final committee report.

"If on such balloting any of said applicants shall be elected but in view of the changed circumstances or for any other reason shall desire to withdraw their applications and not to take the degrees, they shall nevertheless be entitled to and shall receive from the Secretary of your Lodge a special certificate certifying to their election.

"Given at Boston this twenty-second day of November, A.L., 5940, A.D., 1940.

JOSEPH EARL PERRY
GRAND MASTER."

It is my belief that such a course might properly be pursued even if the particular individuals guilty of casting the factious ballot should not be known, or if known, should not be prosecuted. The protection of the Lodge and the righting of the wrong to the rejected applicants is separate and distinct from the punishment of the offenders. It might proceed on different findings of fact or on facts insufficient to justify prosecution of specific suspects. It might be that the balloting was voided by factious voting but that, even so, the candidate ought to have been rejected and would have been even without the factious ballots. The calling of a new ballot does not prevent legitimate rejection.

In a somewhat similar case in which the circumstances were strongly suggestive of factious voting but in which the evidence at present available did not justify an official finding to that effect, I have nevertheless ordered a new ballot because the balloting was in violation of Article 411 of the Constitutions. However, if it had not been for the strong suspicion of factious balloting I should not have felt justified in calling for a new ballot in this latter instance.

We face a period of intense stresses and feelings are likely to run strongly on economic and political and other issues. They carry with them a special danger to our Craft unless we set ourselves resolutely to make our balloting rise above any purely personal feeling. Freemasonry should serve as a place in which differences can be momentarily forgotten. Some of the most precious aspects of our life face grave threats. Let us try to preserve them in our Masonry. The stature of our Craft is tested at the ballot box. Let no petty or unmasonic feeling influence the acceptance or rejection of candidates.

Switch Points

The point of a railroad switch can move only a very short distance, but that slight change in position determines whether the train and all its passengers go north or south, east or west. In at least a minor way and sometimes even in a major way, the destinies of thousands of passengers are determined by the difference of an inch or two in the position of the switchpoints. For many thousands of miles, the meandering line of the Continental Divide in North and South America determines whether the falling raindrops shall go into the Pacific or the Atlantic Ocean. So in life, it is sometimes the most trivial things—a smile, a frown, thoughtless indifference or a kindly word, a cold shoulder or a bit of a lift—that determine the course of a life or even that of a nation.

It is the privilege of Freemasonry to throw the switches of life toward the higher things. The helping hand, thoughtful encouragement, kindly tolerance, are switchpoints along the Masonic way.

Just now the world is cursed with hatreds. Racial, religious, ideological, and a thousand other kinds of hatreds are flaming up in a worldwide conflagration. No abiding peace can come until these hatreds subside. Force fans, but cannot quench, hatreds. Some solvent must be found. Hatreds may be dissolved by broader loyalties and loftier vision. Freemasonry as the exemplar and mentor of tolerance and brotherly love has a mission as the solvent of hatreds, the harbinger of peace.

These momentous days and hours are switchpoints shaping the course of destiny. No matter what happens, there will be a new world order. But in whatever mould the new world may be cast, there will always be need for justice and tolerance and faith, for temperance and fortitude and industry; indeed, for all the qualities of mind and heart that Freemasonry teaches. The worse the world the greater the need. The influence of Freemasonry and Freemasons may throw the switch toward a better way.

If this country should feel compelled to enter the war, then let it be for principle and without hatred. If Freemasons must fight, then let them fight cleanly, loyally, bravely for their country and for the right as they are

given to see it. Whether the immediate outcome be war or peace, the cumulating evidence indicates that we are in a worldwide revolution that reaches out from the doubts and tensions within each individual mind to embrace in its sweep all men and all nations, and every phase of human thought and action. Some attitudes and customs should be changed. Others should be defended to the death. The early Christians were willing to live in the catacombs to defend their faith. Our British Brethren are living in underground shelters in order to defend their faith. We should be no less resolute in the defence of our faith. If Freemasonry has to fight for its own existence, let its members do so as crusaders for principles that can never die. If our numbers decrease, let our quality and our zeal increase. If the waters of doubt and disaster overwhelm us, let our faith in God and in the ultimate triumph of right never waver. Whenever we have a chance to throw a switch, let it always be in the right direction toward a better and a kindlier world.

As one reviews the development of human progress he sees a continuous succession of switchpoints. We see mankind emerging from the brute creation,—groping, stumbling, falling, rising, struggling ever on; suffering, despairing, hoping, praying, catching glimpses of God, relapsing into paganism; toiling, sacrificing, climbing to newer heights.

This day is a switchpoint for this Grand Lodge, for every individual, for the nation, and for mankind. We are the inheritors of a vast momentum of civilization which in spite of every reverse trends ever upward. Today, tomorrow, every tomorrow, we shall be at some switchpoint. The familiar words of John Oxenham bear repeating again, when he expressed the same thought in "A High Way and a Low":

To every man there openeth
A Way, and Ways, and a Way,
And the High soul climbs the High Way,
And the Low soul gropes the Low,
And in between, on the misty flats,
The rest drift to and fro;
But to every man there openeth
A High Way and a Low,
And every man decideth
The Way his soul shall go.

In his "The Chambered Nautilus", Oliver Wendell Holmes suggests the way in which we should throw the switchpoints as we travel our way.

Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,

As the swift seasons roll!

Leave thy low-vaulted past!

Let each new temple, nobler than the last,

Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,

Till thou at length are free,

Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea!

Conclusion

My first words in accepting the office of Grand Master were in appreciation of my immediate predecessor. So likewise may I close, adding to my appreciation of his continued loyalty and help my gratitude to all of my Brethren. In all my service as Grand Master no single request for help or cooperation has ever been refused by even one single Brother. For that I am humbly grateful. I believe the Craft is harmonious and united in every nook and corner of this splendid Jurisdiction, and I expect that under the able guidance of my successor it will meet resolutely and successfully every challenge and every opportunity that lie ahead.

DOING BUSINESS BELOW COST

Merchants, corporations and even individuals have frequently struggled to "keep going" under the handicap of having an income which is less than the essential cost of doing business. That it cannot be continued for long is apparent to everyone, even if there are some reserves to fall back upon. Masonic lodges as well as Grand Lodges have found themselves in this unfortunate predicament, and generally there is only one course to pursue. If economies will not balance the budget, the income must be increased or a crisis will develop.

In an exchange we read of a lodge with 90 members on the roll. In this lodge the initiation fee is \$30.00 and the annual dues are \$5.00. Since each new member gets a lambskin apron and a copy of the Great Light, it follows that, after Grand Lodge requirements are met, the initiation fee has just about vanished. Efforts to raise the annual dues to \$7.00 meet with opposition and threats of demands for dimits. The lodge owns a temple, but there is a mortgage for \$1,000.00 outstanding, requiring payments of interest and principal. All of this creates a problem which the officers confess they do not know how to solve.

The financial condition of the particular lodge referred to is typical of others. To meet this situation a

number of Grand Lodges have appointed special committees whose duties are to investigate lodges which are consistently attempting to operate "in the red," and offer their services to help set them on the right track. The reports of these advisory committees frequently develops cases where the officers of lodges are apparently indifferent to what will eventually happen, being content to continue in the hope that some day or somehow matters will right themselves of their own accord.

We believe that the privileges of Freemasonry should be available to worthy members at as low a cost as is consistent with the necessary cost of doing business, but it is apparent that all lodges must be self-sustaining out of the income upon which they have a right to rely. Masonic lodges are not business institutions, but an inescapable business phase confronts all of them. It has been said that Masonry is a luxury, but every luxury has its price which must be met in some manner. There are many men of high character, men who would make excellent members, but who are unable to afford this "luxury." However much the brethren would like to extend fraternal privileges to such men, it is not possible to do so.

Excepting lodges which are burdened with huge

temple debts, the great majority of lodges which are unable to make both ends meet are suffering because annual dues requirements are insufficient to furnish needed revenue. It is not always an easy matter to increase the amount of the annual dues, as members vote against such a proposal even where more revenue is desperately needed. To overcome this some Grand Lodges fix the minimum amount lodges may accept for annual dues. This is not entirely satisfactory, for what may be reasonable in one locality, may be totally inad-

quate or unnecessarily high in other places. Threats of withdrawal, as mentioned in the incident above referred to, should receive scant consideration. Of what benefit to a lodge are members who in effect declare that they are willing to remain only if they are permitted to retain their standing by the payment of a trifle less than their proportionate share of the cost of operating the lodge?

Doing business below cost is a fine trick—if you can do it.—*The Masonic Chronicler.*



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Thomas Dunckerley, first Grand Master of Knights Templar in England (1791), was initiated into Masonry, January 10, 1754, and, in 1795, presided over eight Masonic Provinces as Grand Master.

Capt. Meriwether Lewis, one of the leaders of the Lewis and Clark expedition into the Northwest, was initiated in Door to Virtue Lodge No. 44, in Albemarle County, Va., January 28, 1797, and was passed and raised to the degree of Master Mason the following day.

Capt. Isaac Chauncey, U.S.N., member of Independent Royal Arch Lodge No. 2 of New York City, who fought at Tripoli in 1812, died at Washington, D.C., January 27, 1840, where he was serving on a board of Navy Commissioners.

Maj. Gen. John W. Geary, Governor of two states—Kansas, 1856-57, and Pennsylvania, 1867-73—received the three degrees of Masonry by special dispensation in St. John's Lodge No. 219, Pittsburgh, Pa., when on his way to Mexico with his troops, January 4, 1847.

Robert I. Clegg, 33d., and Knight Templar, who was Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of Ohio (1924) and 12th president of the National League of Masonic Clubs, was made a Master Mason in Tyrian Lodge No. 370, Cleveland, Ohio, January 24, 1906.

Edouard Quartier - La - Tente, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge "Alpina" of Switzerland for five years, died at Geneva, Switzerland, January 19, 1925.

Maj. Gen. Mark L. Hersey, who commanded the 78th Division, U.S.A., and later the 4th Division, during the World War, died at Washington, D.C., January 22, 1934. He was a member of Pacific Lodge No. 64, Exeter, Maine.

James W. Stroud, 32d., a pioneer in Oklahoma Territory and founder of the town of Stroud, died January 28, 1935.

LIVING BRETHREN

Richard C. McMullen, present Governor of Delaware and a member of the Scottish Rite at Wilmington, was born at Glasgow, Del., January 2, 1868.

John Thomas, U.S. Senator from Idaho and a member of the Scottish Rite at Boise, was born at Prairie View, Kans., January 4, 1874.

Thomas J. Harkins, 33d., Active Member in North Carolina and Grand Chancellor of the Supreme Council, 33d., Southern Jurisdiction, was born at Asheville, N.C., January 15, 1879, and received the 32nd degree of the Scottish Rite, January 21, 1904.

Nelson E. Lurton, 33d., Deputy in China of the Supreme Council, 33d., Southern Jurisdiction, was born in Jersey County, Ill., January 1, 1883.

Samuel B. Pettengill, 33d., Representative in Congress from Indiana (1931-39), was born at Portland, Ore., January 19, 1886.

Keen Johnson, present Governor of Kentucky and a member of Richmond (Ky.) Lodge No. 25, was born in Lyon County, Ky., January 12, 1896.

Dr. Frederick J. Schaufelberger, M.D., Grand Master of the Grand Council, R. & S.M. of Nebraska (1908) and Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Nebraska (1913), received the 33rd Degree Honorary at Omaha, January 9, 1902.

Dr. Edgar Cordell Powers, D.D., 33d., Deputy in Maryland of the Supreme Council, 33d., Southern Jurisdiction, received the 32nd degree at Baltimore, January 30, 1920.

Dr. James E. Jacob, M.D., Deputy in the Canal Zone of the Supreme Council, 33d., Southern Jurisdiction, received the 33d degree honorary, January 6, 1922.

George L. Radcliffe, U.S. Senator from Maryland since 1935, received the 32nd degree of the Scottish Rite at Baltimore, January 27, 1939.

MASSACHUSETTS INSTALLS

Prof. Albert A. Schaefer of Massachusetts Institute of Technology was installed as grand master of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts at the 207th annual installation ceremony of the grand lodge at Masonic Temple on Boylston street Friday, Dec. 27, 1940.

Joseph Earl Perry of Belmont, who is retiring after three consecutive terms as grand master, installed Prof. Schaefer, who in turn installed his supporting officers.

The officers were: Earl W. Taylor of Belmont, senior grand warden; Earle C. Parker of Barre, junior grand warden; Charles H. Ramsay of Cambridge, grand treasurer; and Frank H. Hilton of Belmont, grand secretary.

Guests at the installation included: Henry C. Turner, grand master of New York; C. Lyle Hagaman, grand master of New Jersey; Warren H. Tucker, grand master of New Hampshire; William E. Hanmer, grand master of Connecticut; George F. Ward, grand master of Rhode Island; A. Marcus Toller, pro grand master of Finland; George W. Long, high priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter; Norman K. Wiggin, grand master, grand council. R. and S. Masters; Harry G. Pollard, grand master, grand encampment, Knights Templars; John E. Rines, grand commander, grand encampment, Knights Templars; Lt.-Gov. Horace T. Cahill, Frederic W. Cook, secretary of state; and Joseph R. Cotton, special counsel for Governor Saltonstall.

FEAST OF ST. JOHN

After the installation the annual Feast of St. John was served to the 500 officers and members attending with Lt.-Gov. Cahill, Secretary Cook, Cotton, Perry, Turner and Toller as speakers.

Installed as members of the board of directors were: Melvin M. Johnson of Brookline, Herbert W. Dean of Cheshire, Herbert P. Bagley of Worcester, Dean K. Webster of Lawrence, Arthur D. Prince

of Lowell, James Young, Jr., of Salem, Claude L. Allen of Melrose and Joseph Earl Perry of Belmont.

Board of trustees of the Masonic Education and Charity Trust: Myron F. Converse of Worcester, Arthur D. Prince of Lowell, Allen T. Treadway of Stockbridge, Gov. Saltonstall, George A. Burnham of Saugus, James Young, Jr., of Salem, Melvin M. Johnson of Brookline, and former Gov. Channing H. Cox.

Appointed officers were: Arthur W. Coolidge of Reading, deputy grand master; Nelson E. Lurton of Shanghai, district grand master of China; and Lewis Beals Bates of Ancon, district grand master of the Canal Zone.

Other appointments were: Charles E. Cooke of Lowell, grand marshal; the Rev. Paul Sterling of Melrose, grand chaplain; the Rev. John C. Breaker of Worcester, grand chaplain; the Rev. Robert Walker of West Concord, grand chaplain; the Very Rev. Percy T. Edrop of Springfield, grand chaplain; the Rev. Frank B. Crandall of Salem, grand chaplain; the Rev. Marshall E. Mott of Longmeadow, grand chaplain; the Rev. D. Joseph Imler of Belmont, grand chaplain; Roy Perry Miles of Chicopee Falls, grand lecturer; George Emery Green of Medford, grand lecturer.

William R. Gilman, Malden, senior grand deacon; Elliott S. Boardman of Cambridge, junior grand deacon; Sten G. Nyberg of Shrewsbury, senior grand steward; Everett L. Bates of Melrose, junior grand steward; Albert W. Jacobs of Hingham, junior grand steward; James A. Breed of Swampscott, junior grand steward; Whitfield W. Johnson of Watertown, grand sword bearer; James P. Davies of Waltham, grand standard bearer; Charles E. Flanders of Belmont, grand pursuivant; George W. Dean of Oakham, grand pursuivant; R. Franz Reissmann of Milton, grand organist, and Francis W. B. Scott of Roslindale, grand tyler.

Also installed D.D.G.Ms were:

District 1, John Wentworth, Needham (Boston).

2, Walter P. Worden, Cambridge, (Cambridge).

2, Robert T. Sanford, Belmont, (Boston).

3, Harold F. Coleman, East Milton, (Boston).

3, Arthur H. Reed, Everett, (Chelsea).

4, Thomas Nelson, Jamaica Plain, (South Boston).

4, Roland S. Fulton, Milton, (Dorchester).

4, James C. Kelley, Milton, (Roxbury).

5, C. Weston Ringer, Needham, (Waltham).

5, Laurence M. Jackson, Belmont, (Brighton).

6, Pierre A. Northrup, Lexington, (Somerville).

6, Norman A. Ray, West Somerville, (Arlington).

7, Harry B. Tabor, Everett, (Malden).
7, Ernest R. Potter, Malden, (Melrose).
8, Earl R. Galeucia, Lynn, (Salem).
8, Lewis Doane, Marblehead, (Lynn).
9, Edmund G. Haskell, Beverly, (Gloucester).

10, Perley E. Miller, Newburyport, (Newburyport).

11, Malcolm B. McTernan, Andover, (Lawrence).

12, Percy B. S. Silk, Lowell, (Lowell).

13, Leon J. Winch, East Pepperell, (Fitchburg).

13, Roy E. Comstock, Athol, (Barre).

14, Frank H. Reed, Greenfield, (Greenfield).

15, Felix H. Scharmann, Pittsfield, (North Adams).

16, Robert P. Easland, Pittsfield, (Pittsfield).

17, Harry W. Tower, Florence, (Holyoke).

18, Frank P. Johnson, Springfield, (Chicopee).

18, Henry C. Johnson, Woronoco, (Springfield).

19, Myron E. Richardson, Gilbertville, (Palmer).

20, Milton L. Goldthwaite, Uxbridge, (Blackstone).

21, John A. Jewell, Worcester, (Brookfield).

22, Eric A. Jacobson, Worcester, (Worcester).

23, William Ferguson, Hopedale, (Natick).

24, Everett G. Ricker, Hudson, (Marlboro).

25, George M. Ellis, Westwood, (Hyde Park).

26, J. Frederick Price, South Weymouth, (Quincy).

27, Harry H. Reed, Cohasset, (Plymouth).

28, Robert W. MacGlashing, Taunton, (Taunton).

28, Corodon S. Fuller, Foxboro, (Attleboro).

29, Joseph W. Keith, Bridgewater, (Brockton).

30, Arthur R. Anderson, New Bedford, (Fall River).

30, Charles McL. Hadley, Fall River, (New Bedford).

31, Ludwig Knorr, Edgartown, (Nantucket).

32, Charles F. Holden, Falmouth, (Hyannis).

32, George S. Chapman, Jr., Provincetown, (Provincetown).

33, Edson S. Dunbar, West Springfield, (Springfield).

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Grand Commander Nisbet was 90 years of age and was active in Masonic affairs up until the time of his death, which was preceded by an illness of only one week.

CHURCH SERVICE

A Masonic service attended by Livingston Masonic Lodge No. 657 and Constantine Commandery, Knights Templar, was held on Sunday evening, December 1st, in St. Mary's Episcopal Church, New York City.

Dr. Charles Grosch, Grand Commander, was the principal speaker, and the sermon was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Charles B. Ackley, the rector, who is the Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery.

ST. LOUIS REUNION

At the recent Scottish Rite Reunion in St. Louis, Mo., the class taking the degrees increased each day. Starting with 34 on Wednesday, November 13th, it increased to 41 on Thursday, 42 on Friday and 46 on Saturday. Attendance was higher than usual and the degree work excellent.

After the degree work was finished on Saturday afternoon, 1,187 sat down to a turkey dinner, and 2,200 attended the dance and entertainment in the evening.

William Koch, 33d., Active Member in Iowa of the Supreme Council, 33d., Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., was an honored guest at the Reunion.

GOVERNOR RECEIVES DEGREES

Payne H. Ratner, Kansas Governor who, as latest election returns show, was reelected by 427 votes at the general election on November 5, 1940, was made a Thirty-second Degree Scottish Rite Mason in the Topeka (Kans.) Bodies on November 6, 1940. Governor Ratner became a member of Topeka Chapter No. 5, Royal Arch Masons, on November 5th, and in the same class was John F. Scott, mayor of Topeka.

NORWEGIAN MASONRY BANNED

Major Vidkun Quisling, Norwegian Nazi Fuehrer, officially banned Freemasonry throughout Norway in a decree issued November 29, 1940. Quisling's order provided penalties for Craft members who were slow in giving up their membership, and converted the Masonic headquarters into a museum.

Hitler's puppet government in Norway granted full standing in the National Union Party to Masons who resigned before the Germans entered the country, on April 9th of this year, but other former Masons must serve a three-year probationary period before being admitted to full standing in the Norwegian-Nazi party.

It is known that Hitler has officially banned Masonry in Germany, France, Holland and Norway. Franco has done the same in Spain, and Mussolini issued

a decree against the Fraternity in Italy. No word has been received recently from Denmark, Belgium, Bulgaria, Austria, Czechoslovakia or Poland, and Masonry is either barred or has voluntarily disbanded in these countries. Since stringent laws exist in Russia against the Fraternity, it is probable that Masonry does not function in Finland.

Word from Sweden reached the United States as late as last October, but communications from that country are vague, and nothing definite regarding Swedish Masonry can be ascertained. It is feared that Masonic work in Switzerland may have been seriously affected by the encirclement of that country by the Axis powers.

Wherever the dictators have come into power, Masonry has been outlawed. The Craft, with ideals of individual freedom and equality in direct opposition to the totalitarian doctrines has been ruthlessly stamped out.

BIG BEN

Big Ben, long famed as the largest and most powerful striking clock in the world and a well-known London landmark, is also the most accurate. Official records show that it varies scarcely a second from year to year.

So sensitive is Big Ben that, though the pendulum weighs 400 pounds, the weight of a penny will make it gain four-fifths of a second in twenty-four hours. A half-penny is now used to keep the clock exactly correct, the extra weight being necessary to keep it dead right.

98TH BIRTHDAY

Samuel Bronson Lightcap, 32d., and Knight Commander of the Court of Honour, the only living charter member of the Scottish Rite Bodies in Kansas City, Mo., celebrated his 98th birth anniversary on October 7, 1940. One of the outstanding members of the Craft in Kansas City, Mr. Lightcap has been a Mason for almost 75 years.

Despite his years, Mr. Lightcap still actively serves as Chaplain in all the Scottish Rite Bodies, the Commandery, Council and Royal Arch in Kansas City, and seldom misses a meeting of South Gate Lodge No. 547. A few years ago he conferred the Master Mason degree in South Gate Lodge and was almost letter perfect in the work. He is also the only living charter member of Orient Chapter No. 102, Royal Arch Masonry, in Kansas City, and at present is Chaplain Emeritus of the Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of the State of Missouri.

Mr. Lightcap was born in Greensburg, Pa., on October 7, 1842.

CUBANS SEEK SUPPRESSION

At its last communication, the Masonic Grand Lodge of Cuba passed a resolution asking the president of the

republic of Cuba to dissolve the "Falange Espanola (Spanish Phalanx)" and its affiliated organizations and to suppress its organs of propaganda. Particular attention was given in the resolution to the anti-Continental and anti-Cuban ideas practiced and taught, in certain centers, within religious schools and colleges, which are maintained by the "Falange Espanola" under pretext of being spiritual centers of Spain in America.

The resolution stated that this Spanish activity must be stamped out because it works toward the destruction of the sovereignty and dignity of the Cuban people.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, BOSTON

More than 500 members and friends of St. John's Lodge, oldest Masonic lodge in America, which was instituted in 1733 at the Bunch of Grapes Tavern on King street (now State) attended the annual installation of officers and ladies' night of the organization at Masonic Temple, Boylston street, on the evening of Monday, January 6.

Newly elected officers installed were: Walter S. Hall, master; Frederic S. Hill, senior warden; J. Chester Reed, junior warden; Starr A. Burdick, treasurer, and Ira M. Conant, secretary. Worshipful Elliot S. Boardman acted as installing master and Worshipful Robert G. Jennings was the installing marshal.

ANOTHER WASHINGTON STATUE?

The Order of DeMolay for boys recently launched a campaign to raise \$40,000 to place a statue of the first President in the George Washington Masonic National Memorial at Alexandria, Va. The proposed statue will be placed in a room 100 feet long, 66 feet wide and 41 feet high, and will be the first object seen by visitors when they enter the Memorial.

The Washington Memorial was erected by the Masonic Fraternity and dedicated to Washington, the Man and Mason. It is estimated that more than a million persons visit it each year.

OLD SURRATT HOUSE

The old house at 604 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., where Mrs. Mary Surratt lived and where the plot to assassinate President Lincoln was alleged to have been laid, is to be turned into a modern Chinese restaurant.

There had been little change in the house for sixty years after the assassination and the hanging of the conspirators who were alleged to have been implicated in the murder of the Civil War President. Finally, in 1925, the building was converted from a residence into commercial property and rented to Chinese merchants, who have occupied it for the past several years.

The structure, which is about 23 feet wide and built on the corner of an al-

ley, is four stories high, with a flat facade. The top story is an attic with two dormer windows in front. That section of the city, once semi-fashionable and purely residential, is now largely commercial.

LODGE BEQUEST

The will of Charles H. Wiggin of Malden, Massachusetts, recently filed in Middlesex probate court, leaves the residue of his estate to his wife, Mrs. Jennie H. Wiggin, and includes a gift of \$1000 to Rising Star lodge, A.F.&A.M. of Newmarket, N.H., as a charity fund in his name. He left his Masonic books, jewels and regalia to the Grand Lodge of Masons of New Hampshire. He died Nov. 24.

FIFTY-YEAR MASONS

Willis T. McConnell, member of Craftsmen Lodge No. 559, F.&A.M., Los Angeles, Calif., recently received a fifty-year button from his lodge. He was made a Master Mason in 1890 in Benevolent Lodge No. 451, A.F.&A.M., Barnard, Iowa, and was later a member of Frontier Lodge No. 87, Wessington Springs, S.D., before demitting to Craftsmen Lodge.

The button was presented by Past Master Samuel E. Burke. A feature of the presentation program was the reading of the minutes of Benevolent Lodge as set down by the lodge secretary at the time Mr. McConnell was made a Master Mason.

Many Masons receive 50-year buttons in commemoration of half a century of service in the Craft, but few under such circumstances as those attendant at the presentation of the button to Robert F. Dickinson, Pacific Lodge No. 136, F.&A.M., San Francisco, Calif. Present at the ceremony was Moubay Robert Dundas, Past Master of Pacific Lodge, who had been in the master's chair when Mr. Dickinson was made a Master Mason. Louis E. Arnold, another veteran Mason who was present when Mr. Dickinson became a member of the Craft, witnessed the presentation ceremony and extended his congratulations.

Three candidates, sponsored by Past Master Dundas in 1891, will receive a similar honor next year.

MASONIC WEEK AT WASHINGTON

February 19. The Masonic Service Association of the United States, twenty-second annual meeting, small ballroom, Willard Hotel, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; 2:00 p.m. to adjournment.

February 19. Grand Secretaries' Conference, Raleigh Hotel, 2:00 p.m. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Meeting continued after dinner.

February 20. Grand Masters' Conference, Willard Hotel, 9:30 a.m. Luncheon at 12:30 p.m. Reconvene at 2:00

p.m. Grand Masters' dinner, Willard Hotel, 7:00 p.m.

February 21. Grand Masters' Conference continued, 9:30 a.m. Luncheon 12:30 p.m.

February 22. George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, annual meeting in Washington Memorial, Alexandria, Va., 10:00 a.m. Busses leave Willard Hotel, Pennsylvania Avenue entrance, and Raleigh Hotel, 12th Street entrance, at 9:00 a.m. SHARP. Luncheon in Alexandria.

CONNECTICUT DEPUTY DIES

Charles Melville Gerdenier, 33d., Deputy for Connecticut and dean of the Active Membership of the Supreme Council, 33d., A.A.S.R., Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, U.S.A., died at his home in Bridgeport, Conn., on December 3, 1940.

Mr. Gerdenier was made a Mason in St. John's Lodge No. 3, Bridgeport, Conn., June 11, 1884, and knighted in Hamilton Commandery No. 5, K.T., in 1886. He became a 33d. Honorary Member of the Northern Supreme Council on September 20, 1904, and was crowned an Active Member on September 22, 1910.

75TH ANNIVERSARY

SCOTTISH RITE BODIES

Aurora Grata Scottish Rite Bodies of Brooklyn, N.Y., Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, will observe the 75th anniversary of the constitution of these bodies by a Double Diamond Jubilee Reunion on January 10th and 11th, 1941, ending with a dinner on the last day. Henry C. Turner, 33d, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York, and Henry DeWitt Hamilton, Past General Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masonry for the United States, will assist in the degree work.

The bodies are headed by the following officers: Alexander F. Mitchell, 33d, Commander-in-Chief of the Consistory, 32d; Clarence E. Taylor, Most Wise Master of the Chapter of Rose Croix, 18th; Walter E. Johnson, Sovereign Prince of the Council of Princes, 16th, and Clarence H. Wilson, Thrice Potent Master of the Lodge of Perfection, 14th. Charles A. Brockaway, 33d, is secretary of all the bodies.

The Aurora Grata Council of Princes of Jerusalem was opened by Charles T. McClenachan, 33d, on April 19, 1866. Three weeks later, on May 12th, Aurora Grata Chapter of Rose Croix was constituted. In 1887, these bodies and Aurora Grata Lodge of Perfection purchased a building at the corner of Bedford Avenue and Madison Street, their present location, and remodeled it for their purposes. "The records of those 21 years show that their earliest hopes met many discouragements, that they struggled on and on in dark and downcast hours; yet year after year they looked steadfastly

toward their goal, and triumphed over every obstacle.

"That Gracious Dawn they had awaited—their Aurora Grata—broke in full splendor with the founding of Aurora Grata Consistory in 1888, a year after moving into their new home."

GEN. BALLINGTON BOOTH DIES

Gen. Ballington Booth, Commander-in-Chief of the Volunteers of America, died at Blue Point, Long Island, on October 6, 1940. General Booth, who founded the Volunteers of 1896, was the son of the Rev. William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, and brother of Evangeline C. Booth, Commander-in-Chief of the Salvation Army in the United States since 1904 and General of the World-Wide Salvation Army since 1934.

Ordained a Presbyterian Minister, he was Commander-in-Chief of the Salvation Army in Australia and the United States before he broke away to found his own welfare organization.

General Booth was active in Masonic affairs for forty years, and was a prominent Masonic lecturer, author, composer and orator. He was made a Mason in Montclair (N.J.) Lodge No. 144; was Past Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of New York, life member and Prelate of Kismet Shrine Temple, Brooklyn, N.Y., honorary member of Lu Lu Shrine Temple, Philadelphia, Pa., and a Scottish Rite Mason and Knight Templar.

MASONRY DURING CIVIL WAR

The simple notation, "On this night Bro. Williams escaped from prison," on the records of Zerubbabel Lodge No. 15, Savannah, Ga., is all the written evidence that remains of a remarkable story of Masonic devotion between men of the North and South that took place during the Civil War. It concerns L.J. Williams, a member of Downsville (N.Y.) Lodge No. 464, who learned from firsthand experience during the Civil War the true meaning of Masonic brotherhood.

Mr. Williams had received only the first two degrees when he enlisted with the Union forces at the beginning of the war. Early in the hostilities he was taken captive and confined in prison near Savannah. Later, he was allowed to communicate with friends in the North, and eventually word of his plight reached the ears of his home lodge officials.

This Northern Lodge immediately requested Zerubbabel Lodge to confer the Master Mason degree upon Mr. Williams. True to their Masonic obligations, these Southern Masons complied. Dressed in his worn blue uniform, the enemy prisoner entered the lodge room and was made a Master Mason by the men in Gray. All the working stations were occupied by Confederate officers.

That night Mr. Williams escaped from

prison. At least that is the official story. According to Mr. Williams, however, a group of men intercepted him as he was being returned to prison following the degree, put him in a boat and left him on neutral soil. He then made his way to the Union lines.

Mr. Williams never knew the names of the men who thus liberated him. The secret never was revealed by the Southern Masons, the only clue being that terse entry in the records of Zerubbabel Lodge.

THIRTY-SIX GOVERNORS MASONS

Governors now in office in 36 of the 48 states are Masons. The states are: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming and Arizona.

IN WYOMING

Wyoming has always been a strong Masonic state. Three members of the Supreme Court are members of the Fraternity, the Chief Justice—Judge William A. Riner—being a 33d Degree Mason. Among the most active members is Governor Nels H. Smith, 33d.

On December 14, 1940, when the thermometer was twelve degrees below zero, the Governor went to his home Lodge—Newcastle No. 13—for the purpose of raising his two sons to the Third Degree of Freemasonry.

Many of the state officials are Masons. A degree team has been organized consisting of members employed by the government at the State Capitol. This team had charge of the work at Newcastle and is composed of the following: Nels H. Smith, Governor; Norris E. Hartwell, Secretary to the Governor; William Jack, State Auditor; Harold I. Bacheller, Deputy Attorney General; Samuel S. Hoover, Director of Public Welfare; Andy H. Royce, Deputy Labor Commissioner; Harry Anderson, Inheritance Tax Commissioner; James B. Griffith, Commissioner of Public Lands; W. Earl Banks, Chief Clerk, Fish and Game Commission; Ralph H. McFarland, Sec. Dept. of Agriculture; Frank W. Chambers, Deputy State Auditor; James B. Griffith, Commissioner of Public Lands; Dr. M. C. Keith, State Health Officer; Ewing T. Kerr, Attorney General; Alex MacDonald, State Insurance Commissioner; C. F. Siefried, State Highway Engineer; Gedrg O. Houser, Sec. Dept. Commerce and Industry; Dr. Harry D. Port, State Veterinarian; Guy H. Dayton, State Highway Department.

On April 19, 1940, this degree team conferred the Master Mason Degree in

Cheyenne Lodge No. 1, of which Clifford E. Swisher is Worshipful Master, and he is also Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection at Cheyenne.

HENRY FORD 33d

Henry Ford, well-known automobile manufacturer, received the 33rd degree honorary, A.A.S.R., in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction at Detroit, December 6, 1940. The ceremony of conferring the degree was performed in the presence of sixteen Active Members of the Northern Supreme Council, and more than 100 honorary members of that Council.

Dr. Melvin M. Johnson, of Boston, Grand Commander, presided during the work of the degree in an extra-special session of the Council for ritualistic purposes. Grand Minister of State, Louis H. Fead, 33d Active, formerly Grand Master of Masons in Michigan, and at one time Supreme Court Justice, assisted in conferring the 33rd degree on Mr. Ford. With him in the work were Louis A. Cornelius, 33d Active, of Grand Rapids, and Harry S. Toy, 33d, former Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court.

Following the conferring of the degree a banquet was attended by some 1,100 Scottish Rite Masons. Over 500 additional were unable to be served but attended the after-dinner ceremonies. At the conclusion of the banquet Michigan Supreme Court Justice George E. Bushnell, 33d Active, Deputy for Michigan, introduced John W. Bricker, 33d, Governor of Ohio; John R. Rowland, 33d, Sovereign Grand Commander of Canada's Supreme Council, and Grand Commander Johnson, who addressed the assemblage.

Initiated in Palestine Lodge No. 357 in 1894, Mr. Ford has been a Mason for more than forty-six years. He was elected to receive the 33rd degree at Cincinnati last September, and would have formally received it at the next meeting of the Supreme Council held in Chicago in 1941.

"WAY UP MASONS"

One of the most deluding and most abused expressions is that of "Way up Masons." In the minds of the profane this term seems to carry with it an impression of innumerable degrees, each one a little higher than the other until the recipient of these honors appears to be but a fly speck on the top of the pyramid. In other words the "Way up Mason" is the man who has taken all degrees that his money will buy and is yearning for more degrees to take. Our Masonic system may be likened to an educational course. A man may manage to get a ward school education and become a power in the world. Some of the greatest men the world has produced have been men of limited education. It therefore follows that a man may take the

first three degrees in Masonry and become a power in the Masonic world. Some of the brightest men in the Masonic world have been men who had attained the degree of Master Mason and no higher. But each man is privileged to extend the realm of his knowledge should he so choose and to take additional degrees only brings to his powers new sources of development. It is commendable in any man to take all the degrees in Masonry that he can afford but let it be understood that the taking of degrees does not make him a "Way up Mason." The "Way up Mason" is that man who has assimilated into his nature the teachings of the several degrees through which he has passed and who stands before the world an exemplar of those teachings.—*Darrab.*

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In these days of quick decisive turns of events, many close observers, marveling at the grit, skill and fortitude of the British, are wondering if the tide of battle is not turning in their favor. Surely things are happening in the British Isles; things which should cheer and hearten every loyal soul there, and every loyal American who knows what the defeat of the British Empire means to this country.

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How truly Churchill spoke to the British Air Force when he said: "Seldom in history have so many owed so much to so few," and how prophetic when, in addressing the people, he told them, "We shall draw from the heart of the suffering itself the means of inspiration and survival."

In the face of all the devastating assaults on English cities and threats of invasion, indications are that the R.A.F. has taken the initiative in the channel battlefield-of-the-air. Despite Hitler's strong, offensive air and military bases just across the channel—22 to 100 miles distant from the English shores—the R.A.F. flies many times these distances and delivers telling blows on vital centers in Germany and Northern Italy.

Lokalanzeiger, a Berlin-controlled paper, excuses Hitler's failure thus far in the following paragraph: "In general one must admit that the British have strong nerves. They are robust and have developed a faculty of withstanding unusual events."

These indications support the opinion that Hitler will not invade England now. But one does not dare to more than hope that the tide is turned in Britain's favor. Great dangers beset the Empire in the Mediterranean and it must first gain a foothold on the continent if Germany is to be defeated.

Two plans for breaking the British Empire have been worked out by the German military chiefs: One is to invade and conquer England immediately, and the other is to drive the British from the Far East, seize the Suez Canal and the Irak oil fields, and overthrow the stronghold of Gibraltar. The former failing, the latter would be undertaken when the Nazis continued their threat to invade the British Isles.

According to the reported visit to Berlin by Ramon Serrano Suner, Franco's brother-in-law, and the recent conference of Von Ribbentrop with Il Duce, the long-rumored drive against the Near East and on Gibraltar is imminent. In the opinion of at least one military observer, who has had an unusually good record in his predictions, the place to watch now is the Near East. He points to the obvious signs of action against Gibraltar, and the continued threat of direct invasion of England, but believes the next big German thrust will not be in either direction. When it comes it will be without warning as all German

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advances have been in the past, and the most logical place is the Near East, which would threaten Suez and India, vital centers of Britain's life line.

England cannot spare enough troops from home defenses to oppose seriously such an advance, nor has it bombing planes of sufficient radius to smash Nazi supply lines in Czechoslovakia and Austria.

It is believed that England can continue a stalemate in the channel and, being stronger in the air at home than at any time during the war, will be able to maintain heavy night attacks on vital German centers and military bases across the channel.

As declared by many leading commentators, we must help England to save ourselves. A British victory is necessary to (a) defend the Monroe Doctrine; (b) save the expense of maintaining a two-ocean navy; (c) protect our common interest in the Far East; (d) guarantee our free economic system; (e) preserve all the free institutions evolved through the democratic principles of both nations.

These factors of civilization and human decency call for our sending England as many of our flying fortresses (at least thirty) as can be spared, and all the old merchant ships now lying idle in the James River, and all other available supplies.

England gravely needs the flying fortresses to destroy the oil stations and air-dromes in Southeastern Europe which will be used by the Nazis and the Fascists in attacking the British in the Far East. England needs the old merchant ships to take the place of those destroyed by Hit-

ler and Mussolini, and other supplies to meet other immediate needs.

The situation calls for immediate action, even to giving to Great Britain our secret bombsight. As has been repeatedly stated, Hitler's war on Anglo-Saxon civilization must be won over there if he is to be kept from coming over here.—*Scottish Rite News Bulletin.*

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